## **REMARKS**

Both prior to and after entry of this second preliminary amendment, claims 18 -20, 22 – 24, 26, 28 and 29 have been cancelled, and claims 1 – 17, 21, 25 and 27 remain pending under examination. The present second preliminary amendment submits a substitute specification that conforms to 37 C.F.R. § 1.77(b) and amends claims 1 – 17, 21, 25 and 27 to conform to U.S. practice. A marked-up copy of the original specification is also is provided herewith for the convenience of the Examiner. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience should any additional information be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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